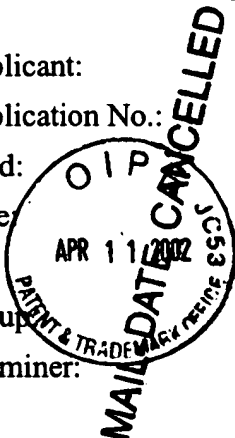


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: John P. Havener, Stephen Piche, Donald Semrad and Brian K. Stephenson  
Application No.: 10/082,783  
Filed: February 25, 2002  
Title: A METHOD FOR OPTIMIZING A PLANT WITH MULTIPLE INPUTS  
Group: 2121  
Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Docket No.: PAVI-25,964



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Assistant Commissioner for  
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Dear Sir:

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5/20/02

(Date of Signature)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the initial review, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**In the Claims**

Please delete Claims 1-52.

Please add the following claims in the present application and insert the following new  
Claims 53-80 to the above-referenced application.:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
PAVI-25,964